

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON: RAILS NEEDED FOR SECOND LEG

COMMERCE FOR CONGER

REF: STATE 202482

1. DURING MEETING WITH OCTRA ASSISTANT LEMETAYER SEPTEMBER 21 (SEPTTEL), LEMETAYER RAISED QUESTION OF RAILS NOTING 800 KILOMETERS WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE 400 KILOMETERS OF SECOND LEG OF TRANSGABON. METRIC WEIGHT OF RAILS SHOULD BE BETWEEN 50 AND 55 KILOGRAMS. STEEL SHOULD FIT QUALITY SPECIFICATION OF CLASS "NATURALLY HARD" B OF UIC (UNION INTERNATIONAL DES CHEMIN DE FER) STANDARDS, THOUGH LEMETAYER SAID THAT IF THEY MET U.S. STANDARDS THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE. DELIVERY OF ORDER WHICH LEMETAYER ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 40,000 TONS WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 1978 AND 1980. LEMETAYER STATED THAT TWO OTHER COUNTRIES--CANADA AND JAPAN--HAD BEEN GIVEN SAME INFORMATION.

2. WE HOPE COMMERCE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND SEVERAL POSSIBLE SUPPLIERS FOR THIS ATTRACTIVE CONTRACT. IN SPITE OF LEMETAYER'S COMMENT ABOUT U.S. SPECIFICATIONS BEING ACCEPTABLE, WE BELIEVE THAT POSSIBLE U.S. SUPPLIERS WOULD STAND BETTER CHANCE IF SPECIFICATIONS COULD BE MADE TO APPEAR TO CONFORM WITH THOSE OF UIC

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OR SHOWN TO BE COMPARABLE. UIC SPECS ARE MUCH MORE

FAMILIAR TO FRENCH TECHNICIANS AT OCTRA WHO WILL HAVE
LARGE INFLUENCE ON FINAL DECISION.

3. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
COUNTRYMAN

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